



NLI Glossary

Acceptable use - Defined by organizational policy

Asynchronous learning - where students and instructors interact at various times (i.e., email, and message boards)

Bandwidth - The total speed capacity of a communications medium.

Conditions of use - establishes the rules for technical connections, operation and management of a network.

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) - Broadband Internet service delivered over telephone wires, but separate from telephone service. One can utilize DSL while on the telephone.

Digital Divide - the gap between those who have computers with Internet access and those who do not, as well as the gap between those who are computer literate and those who are not

e-Learning - the blended system of content, resources, and strategies that enables results-oriented, synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning

E-rate - also known as the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism. Provides discounts to assist most schools and libraries in the United States to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.

Ethernet - The protocol which governs the transmission of packets on a LAN.

Fiber - Fiber optic cables, which consist of several layers of protective material around a glass/plastic/polymer cable. Light pulses travel along the cable at the speed of light to deliver extremely fast data-transmission speeds.

Instructional Computer - Any computer used for student instruction.

Internet - A network of networks all running the TCP/IP protocols, sharing the same underlying network address space, as well as the same domain name space, and interconnected into a network of information.

Interoperability- The term 'interoperable' means the ability to exchange and use data information across various platforms usually in a large heterogeneous network

Intranet - A private network that transmits packets like the Internet, but within the internal network of an organization.

ISDN (integrated Services Digital Network) - Data communication that integrates voice and data.

Local Area Network - Linkage of computers and/or peripherals (e.g., printer) confined to a limited area that may consist of a room, building or campus that allows users to communicate and share information.

Multimedia Instructional Computer -Any computer with a sound card and a CD-ROM that is used for student instruction.

Network - A system of interlinking computers, each with the capability to communicate with each other.

Node - The physical connection between a lateral and the network.

Offsite online learning - access learning materials from sites outside of the school

Onsite virtual school - students access online instruction in a designated area such as gym at the school site

Offsite virtual school - students access online instruction at an offsite facility such as a community center

Packet - Data on the internet is transmitted in baskets of information called packets of information which includes where the data came from, where the data is being sent, what type of data is being transferred, and the data itself.

Pipes - Term used to describe the medium by which Internet traffic is carried. Fiber optic cables can carry a large amount of data and are therefore considered "large pipes."

Rail - Term used to describe a high-capacity fiber optic cable which connects locations over long distances, such as the National LambdaRail which connects many major US metropolitan areas.

Ring - Fiber networks are often composed of large organically shaped rings of fiber. The ring formation creates redundancy, such that if the ring is broken at one point, all subscribers will still have service, the traffic will simply be routed a different way while the break is repaired.

Section 508 - Requires Federal departments and agencies that develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology to ensure that Federal employees and members of the public with disabilities have access to and use of information and data, comparable to that of the employees and members of the public without disabilities.

Shared Services - Reduction of redundant operations by municipalities or non-profits by collaborating with one another for a joint operation(s).

Subscriber - An organization which pays fees in exchange for a service.

Synchronous learning - where student and teachers interact at the same time (i.e., instant messaging, chat rooms, face-to-face)

Ultra Broadband - A term used to refer to the increased bandwidth provided by a connection to a fiber optic network at gigabit speeds.

Videoconferencing - A means of communicating in clear audio and video with individuals dispersed throughout the globe.

Voice-over-IP (VoIP) - The process of converting traditional phone conversations into digital data that can be transmitted via the Internet.

Wide area network - Data communications linkage designed to connect computers over distances greater than the distance transmitted by local area networks that allows users to communicate and share information.

Wi-Fi - Wireless Fidelity refers to the transfer of data using wireless transmitters and receivers, which use unlicensed radio spectrums. Wi-Fi equipment is now included in portable computers, handheld devices and smart phones.

World Wide Web (WWW) - A system that allows access to information sites all over the world using a standard, common interface called hypertext to organize and search information. It simplifies the process of finding a site, connecting, locating the appropriate documents and downloading the information by using a browser (e.g., Netscape, MOSAIC).